

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 094164 TOSEC 100041

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /022 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W-GADIES:DFP

APPROVED BY AF-WESCHAUFEL

S/S-O:JHOGANSON

S: P. BARBIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094164 TOSEC 100041

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SCHAUFEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, DM, US

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: APPOINTMENT REQUEST - FOREIGN

MINISTER ALLADAYE OF BENIN (S/S 7608165)

REF: COTONOU 674 (BEING REPEATED TOSEC)

1. AS REPORTED IN COTONOU 674, THE BENIN GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMED OUR EMBASSY THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ALLADAYE HAS ALTERED HIS TRAVEL PLANS IN ORDER TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON BEFORE YOU DEPART ON YOUR TRIP TO AFRICA. THE FOREIGN MINISTER APPARENTLY WISHES TO SEE YOU QUOTE AT ALL COSTS UNQUOTE; THEREFORE, HE AND TWO OTHER MINISTERS FROM BENIN WILL ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 22. AS YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO DEPART THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR AFRICA, THE ONLY POSSIBLE TIME FOR AN APPOINTMENT WOULD BE THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 22. WHEN THE FOREIGN MINISTER FIRST REQUESTED A MEETING WITH YOU, HE DID NOT SPECIFY A DATE FOR HIS VISIT. YOU REPLIED THAT YOUR PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS MIGHT NOT ALLOW YOU TO RECEIVE HIM PERSONALLY BUT THAT YOU WOULD ASK ONE OF YOUR SENIOR COLLEAGUES IN THE DEPARTMENT TO DO SO IN YOUR STEAD. IT WAS THIS LETTER WHICH AP-
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PARENTLY PROMPTED ALLADAYE TO CHANGE HIS TRAVEL PLANS.

2. US-BENIN RELATIONS HAVE DETERIORATED MARKEDLY IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, LARGELY AS THE RESULT OF DELIBERATE PROVOCATIONS ON THE PART OF THE BENIN GOVERNMENT. WE WITHDREW OUR AMBASSADOR ON FEBRUARY 13 AFTER FOREIGN MINISTER ALLADAYE AND TWO CIVILIAN POLITBURO MEMBERS INTERROGATED HIM IN THE STYLE OF A POLICE COURT. DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL PROTESTED THIS INCIDENT TO THE BENIN AMBASSADOR. ALTHOUGH THE BENIN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET ACKNOWLEDGED THIS PROTEST, THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT BENIN SEEKS TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH US, AND THAT ALLADAYE'S VISIT IS INTENDED TO BEGIN THIS PROCESS.

3. RECOMMENDATION: THAT UNDER SECRETARY SISCO RECEIVE THE DELEGATION.

APPROVE: DISAPPROVE:

DATE: TIME:

ALTERNATIVELY: THAT YOU AGREE TO RECEIVE THE DELEGATION HEADED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF BENIN ON THE AFTERNOON OF THURSDAY APRIL 22.

APPROVE: DISSAPPROVE:

4. DRAFTED BY: AF/W:GADIES
APPROVED BY: AF: WESCHAUFLELE

CLEARANCES: S: P. BARBIAN

ROBINSON

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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